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Descriptive Folder
And Planting Guide

BUFFEL GRASS



COCKRELL RIVERSIDE NURSERY
Route 1
Goldthwaite, Texas

Tested and Proven



HIGH IN PROTEIN

HIGHLY PALATABLE

FAST GROWING

DROUTH RESISTANT

DEEP ROOTED

CONTROLS EROSION

CONDITIONS SOIL

Buffel Grass

DESCRIPTION

Buffel Grass is a native of South Africa, coming from the low rainfall area there. Many strains of it were tested over here, and the one which proved the best is known as T4464. It is a perennial bunch grass having tall, slender stems and branches. One of its outstanding characteristics is its extensive root system which penetrates the soil to great depths. It is very leafy and forms many buds in the crown. These buds develop into separate stems, making the development process continuous.



Buffel field on Cockrell farm less than two months after planting in spring of 1952. Seed heads nearing maturity. Measured growth following September rains, 24 inches in 12 days.

USES

Buffel Grass is an excellent source of grazing and of quick growing hay. Its fast recovery makes several cuttings a year possible. The hay has a high protein content. Cattle eat it readily and have shown a preference for it over other grasses. According to Pat Higgins, a Buffel Grass grower near San Antonio, hay produced on mid-August showed a protein content of 13.85%, and hay produced in mid-May showed a protein content of 16.81%. Buffel Grass, dry-land planted at our nursery, made a growth of 24 inches in twelve days after heavy rains in September.

Buffel Grass is also a good soil builder and helps to control soil erosion. It is an unbeatable choice for worn out fields and deep blow sand.

CHARACTERISTICS AND CULTURE

GERMINATION OF SEED

The germination of Buffel Grass seed increases with the age of the seed. Before planting, the seed should have a dormant period of at least 90 days. Tests in the laboratory are not always indicative of the true germinative ability of the seed, but should be considered merely a guide. Mature, live seed may test relatively low at first but show a later percentage of germination almost equal to the purity percentage after it has had a sufficient period of dormancy.

PREPARATION OF SEED BED

The most desirable seed bed is one that is firm and well-packed. Cultivation of the land before seeding should be very shallow, and care should be taken to loosen the ground as little as possible. The moisture content should be such that the seed may be placed in a dry layer of top soil.

TIME AND METHOD OF PLANTING

Planting of Buffel Grass in the spring should take place after all danger of frost is past. April 15 is usually the earliest planting date recommended. It may be planted at any time from that date onward through August. The April planting date applies to the central Texas area. It may be later farther north. Fall plantings should be made at least 60 days before the date on which the first killing frost usually occurs.

There are two methods of planting. It may be planted broadcast in pastures or fields. This method has been tried very successfully. In fact, Buffel Grass has been known to establish itself voluntarily under such adverse conditions as solid bermuda grass turf.

The preferred method of planting is in rows so that it may occasionally be cultivated. The width of the row should be that of any other row crop. The seed should be planted at a depth of one-half to three-quarters of an inch.

This seeding may be done by an ordinary cotton planter. It should be equipped with a furrow opener. One that is suited to most ground surfaces consists of a flat piece of metal acting as a slide with a short length of angle iron welded to the bottom for furrow opener followed by a packer wheel or short loop of chain to cover the seed. We recommend planting two pounds of seed per acre.

FERTILIZATION

Buffel Grass planted in poor soil or light sand responds to fertilization. The fertilizer should be applied any time after the grass has come up and is well established. A balanced fertilizer such as 5-10-5 or 12-24-12 should be used. There seems to be no appreciable benefit derived from fertilizing grass on rich bottom land.

DROUTH RESISTANCE

One of the outstanding attributes of Buffel Grass is its resistance to drouth. Certainly the past three years have provided ample tests for the grass, and field trials have proved that it continues to put on new growth in July and August when other grasses are dormant or have died.

IRRIGATION

Although Buffel Grass will grow with little moisture, it also does well on irrigated pasture lands. Some remarkable tonnage figures have been achieved through irrigation.



Irrigated field of Buffel Grass on Cockrell farm provided several cuttings of hay in 1952, yielding an exceptionally high tonnage.

PRICES

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Machine-gathered Seed | \$2.50 lb. |
| 20 pounds or over | \$2.00 lb. |
| Hand-picked seed | \$3.00 lb. |
| 20 pounds or over | \$2.50 lb. |

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